

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I watched as President Obama signed the long overdue Water Resources Reform and Development Act into law.

This new law is good news, particularly for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which stand to gain tens of millions of dollars that they have collected in their harbor maintenance tax. It will help create good-paying jobs and keep our ports globally competitive.

As a representative of the Nation's busiest port complex, I believe it is about time that our Nation's ports finally get the critical investments that they need to remain strong. It has been a long haul, but after months of meetings and hearings, the ideas to fully spend this harbor maintenance tax and to increase the flexibility of the funds for these ports were included in the final water bill that was signed by the President.

President Obama and Congress recognize the critical importance of our ports to our Nation's economic growth and sustainability. Today's action is a victory not only for those ports in my community, but for all of our Nation's ports.

#### POLL FINDS MEDIA BIAS MAJOR PROBLEM

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans know that liberal media bias is a major problem in our country. They realize that our democracy rests on fair and balanced news coverage. Instead of reporting the facts, though, the national liberal media pushes the agenda of the administration.

A recent Rasmussen poll found that Americans now believe media bias is a bigger problem than large campaign contributions. It also found that a majority of Americans believe the news media has too much power and influence over government decisions. This is largely because many Americans believe that the media goes easy on this administration.

Americans will continue to view the media as a problem until it provides fair and balanced coverage. The media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think.

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#### YOUNG WOMEN UNDER ATTACK

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram kidnapped hundreds of girls in Nigeria, and I am outraged. These girls were determined to get an education, to build a better life for

themselves, for their families and for their nation. For this, they were abducted.

As a school principal, I know the benefits of an education. Tragedies such as these are not limited to Nigeria. The pursuit of education for our girls is under attack globally. Young girls have had acid thrown in their faces in Afghanistan and Pakistan, been murdered in Somalia, have been abducted in Libya and Nigeria; and these are just a few examples.

We all know the story of Malala, the brave young girl from Pakistan who spoke about her passion for education. In return, Taliban gunmen boarded her school bus and shot her in the head.

Now, we have the Nigerian girls, and I am concerned. Are they hungry? Are they sheltered? Can they shower? Can they take care of their womanly needs? Have they been raped? Have they been beaten? Have they been sold? Are they still even alive?

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe we must continue to do everything we can to bring back these young girls.

#### JUSTICE FOR DR. MEHDI ALI QAMAR

(Mr. STIVERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was gunned down and killed in front of his two-year-old son and his wife in Pakistan.

He was from Pickerington, Ohio, and was a cardiologist and humanitarian who was volunteering his time to care for folks at the Tahir Heart Institute in Pakistan.

He was also an Ahmadi Muslim, a peaceful reformist movement within Islam, which opposes jihad and radical Islam. I offer my condolences to his family and his loved ones. Sadly, he may have been targeted because he was an Ahmadi Muslim.

Today, I am calling on the Government of Pakistan to officially condemn this act and to seek an investigation to bring his murderers to justice. I am also calling on the State Department to institute a formal investigation looking into the killing of Dr. Qamar, as well as look into the increasing violence against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

I urge my colleagues to sign a letter to the U.S. State Department regarding these issues. It is important to bring Dr. Qamar's murderers to justice and ensure the Government of Pakistan protects its religious minorities.

#### MAKING STUDENT LOANS MORE AFFORDABLE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last August, in a rare flash of bipartisan to-

getherness, we passed a measure that protected new student loans from doubling to 6.8 percent, but there is still much work left to be done. The \$1.2 trillion of student loan overhang still haunts many who have graduated from university in prior years.

Yesterday, President Obama, with the stroke of a pen, extended the income-based repayment protections, capping at 10 percent of income the debt requirements for students who took out Stafford loans in the past, but there is still more work to be done.

Again, for many who have private student loan debts at 8 percent, 10 percent, 12 percent interest, they are still not getting any relief.

A few days ago, we introduced in the House the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act, which will allow students with those loans to refinance down those high rates to 3.8 percent, something which middle class families do with home mortgages and credit cards.

We need to provide that assistance, particularly for young Americans who are starting out in their professional employment careers.

Let's come together as we did last August. Let's support the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act. Let's pass this measure, which is a critical problem for middle class Americans.

#### JUSTICE FOR JOHN GRANVILLE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2008, Buffalo native John Granville was tragically murdered by Islamic extremists in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

John Granville was a kid from my own south Buffalo neighborhood, who was committed to helping those in the developing world. He was a former Peace Corps volunteer turned career diplomat. At the time of his death, Granville was working in South Sudan to assist in their efforts to hold free and fair elections after 20 years of brutal civil war.

While John's killers were captured and convicted, they later escaped from prison under suspicious circumstances exactly 4 years ago. Two still remain at large. Meanwhile, the man who helped these killers escape was pardoned by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

The State Department has issued a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of these criminals through the Rewards for Justice program. It has classified the killers as global terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues, if you share my outrage, to please seek justice for John Granville by cosponsoring my resolution, H. Res. 171, calling on the State Department to maintain Sudan on the state sponsors of terrorism list.